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CONGRATULATING VIDA EL VALLE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article by the Fresno Bee entitled "McClatchy's bilingual weekly honored again." This article speaks of the achievements and past honors of Vida en el Valle, the Central Valley's primary bilingual newspaper.

Vida en el Valle, the bilingual weekly owned by The Fresno Bee's parent company, McClatchy Co., was named the nation's outstanding newspaper in its category for the fourth time in seven years during the 11th annual Hispanic Print Awards sponsored by the National Association of Hispanic Publications.

Vida en el Valle also received six other first-place awards for editorial excellence, four second-place awards and four honorable mentions. The newspaper was judged the Outstanding Bilingual Weekly for the third consecutive year by the nation's largest Latino newspaper organization. Vida en el Valle is the only newspaper that has won the award for three consecutive years.

John Esparza, Vida editor and publisher, said the newspaper won its latest honors at the association's weekend convention. Vida competes among larger bilingual newspapers in the association.

Only the daily newspaper El Nuevo, published by the Miami Herald, and the Los Angeles weekly publication Vida Nueva won more first-place awards than Vida, Esparza said. The category for larger publications is based on annual budget.

Vida also took first-place honors for: "Outstanding color photo," by former photographer Tommy Monreal, who left the newspaper to work on a master's degree, "Outstanding color photo essay," by Monreal, "Outstanding political and economics reporting," by reporter Maria Machuca, about the citizenship process, "Outstanding entertainment column," by Andrew Landeros about comedian Carlos Mencia, "Outstanding entertainment section" and "Outstanding sports section." "This is the most first-place awards we've ever won," Esparza said. "We want quality news coverage for our readers and for the Latino community. This shows we are on the right path."

Mr. Speaker, Vida en el Valle has served a vital role in the Central Valley. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Vida en el Valle, and wishing them many years of continued success.

PRAYING FOR THE SAFETY AND FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning on the 48th National Day of Prayer to

ask all of you and the American people to join me in praying for the safety of our children.

Today's youth are growing up in a world very different from the one I knew years ago. We live in an age where most families require two incomes to make ends meet, and nearly half of all marriages end in divorce. Our children simply do not have as much supervision or guidance as we did. Add to that, the dangers of drugs and the prevalence of gangs and violence in our schools—as any parent knows, it is not an easy time to raise a family or to be a student.

My father died when I was a young boy, leaving my mother to fend for me and my brothers and sister. She couldn't have done it alone. In those days, neighbors looked out for each other and watched out for each other's kids. Our family received support from the entire community. In fact, our friends and neighbors considered us an extension of their own families. That's an important reason why my siblings and I were able to achieve our goals and live the American Dream.

Now more than ever, our schools, churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples need to stand together with our families to set an example for our children. Our kids are the future and we must invest as much time and energy into their well-being as possible.

I ask that we all pray for not only our teachers, counselors, and students, but also our law enforcement officials who are charged with the responsibility of protecting our children. It takes all of us to ensure that our children can enjoy their childhood and grow up to be successful adults.

TRIBUTE TO REV. ROBERTO O. GONZÁLEZ, O.F.M.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to serving others, Rev. Roberto O. González, O.F.M., who was recently appointed by his Holiness Pope John Paul II to be the Archbishop of San Juan, PR.

Reverend González was born on June 2, 1950 in Elizabeth, NJ. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Siena College, Loudonville, NY, in 1972, a Master of Arts in Theology from Washington Theological Coalition, Silver Spring, MD, in 1977, and Masters and Doctoral degrees in Sociology from Fordham University, Bronx, NY, in 1980 and 1984, respectively.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend González was received into Franciscan Order in 1972, ordained to the Priesthood on May 8, 1977, appointed to the Episcopacy by Pope John Paul II on July 19, 1988, ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Boston on October 3, 1988, appointed coadjutor Bishop of Corpus Christi on May 16, 1995, and succeeded to the See of Corpus Christi on April 1, 1997.

Reverend González has been an outstanding leader and a great role model, not only to the religious organizations he served so well but also to the Hispanic community.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Reverend González personally for many years, and I am very familiar with his experience, character,

and personality. In short, Reverend González lives to help other people. He has been diligent in providing spiritual guidance and support to the members of our community.

The many religious organizations to which he belonged, like the books and articles he has written speak volumes about him.

As it is written in Hebrews 6:10, "for God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them," the community recognizes him, Pope John Paul II, too, recognizes him and honors him with this appointment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to and in congratulating Rev. Roberto O. González, O.F.M. for his new appointment to be the Archbishop of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

HONORING MARK L. WALKER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize the accomplishments of a man who has made a strong commitment to protect and defend human dignity. On May 8, the members of Oman Temple 72, of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, will gather at their 45th Annual Potentate's Ball, where they will honor their illustrious Potentate, Mark L. Walker.

Mark Walker was born in Dora, Alabama, in 1960. His family moved to Flint, Michigan, in 1975, where Mark graduated from Beecher High School. He then attended Lansing Community College, where he completed the Correction Officer's Training Program, and later received degrees from C.S. Mott Community College, and the University of Michigan—Flint, both times graduating with honors. Not content with stopping there, Mark is currently seeking a Masters of Public Administration, also from the University of Michigan.

It was during this time that Mark became involved with Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He rose to the level of 32-degree Mason, and has held positions of distinction within the group. He is recognized as a Past Master, Past Most Wise and Perfect Master, and Captain of the Guard, prior to his tenure at Illustrious Potentate. Whether as a member of the Shrine, or on his own, Mark shows a tremendous amount of dedication to being a positive force in the community. He has been an organizer of a Summer Food/Children Reading program, has been president of the Flint Park Lake Neighborhood Association, and the Great Flint Educational Consortium.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions that Mark Walker has given the Flint area in the areas of community service and education are tremendous, and I am indeed fortunate for the impact he has made within my district, especially amongst our children. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in congratulating him for his dedication and perseverance.